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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

March 13, 1992

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

S/S

TO: P - Mr. Kanter

FROM: INR - Douglas P. Mulholland DM

SUBJECT: Safire's Accusations About Chinese-Syrian
Proliferation

You asked us to evaluate the accusations made in a recent editorial by William Safire (Tab A) about China's role in Syria's missile procurement effort.

Missile Related Facilities at Hama and Aleppo

- o Charge: "Some suspect that the Aleppo plant will produce surface-to-surface missiles...The Hama plant, say these sources, is supposed to make sophisticated guidance systems for these missiles."

Agreement on Missile Production

- o Charge: One week after Secretary Baker visited Beijing, "the Chinese secretly agreed to help the Syrians construct their own missiles locally." DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

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Chinese Scientists in Syria

- o Charge: "On February 10, 1992, the Chinese scientists secretly visited the plants at Aleppo and Hama."

We are attaching classified and unclassified talking points (Tab B) we prepared last week at H's urgent request for use on the Hill in addressing the Safire essay.

Attachments:

1. Tab A - Safire Essay
2. Tab B - Talking Points for H

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